I had always wanted to become a teacher and, after realizing that elementary education was NOT for me, my other love was reading - so voilà! - English teacher created,” said Heather Breight, a 2014 English as a Second Language graduate from Talala, Oklahoma. Breight is now a freshman and sophomore English teacher and head coach of the debate team at Kearney High School. Her hands-on experience from UNK has helped her to become a better teacher. “I completed my student teaching semester at Kearney High School and Bryant Elementary in Kearney. It was by far the most important experience I had during my college years. Nothing prepares you to become a teacher except by actually getting in there and teaching! Honestly, I wish student teaching was an entire year because there is so much to learn in just eight weeks.”

ENGLISH 7-12 TEACHING SUBJECT ENDORSEMENT

If you love reading, thinking and writing to such a degree that you envision helping others come to love those things as well, consider an English 7-12 Teaching Subject Endorsement. Students take a specialized set of courses in both English and Education. After reading significant texts from many genres, periods and cultures, as well as preparing for effective teaching, students will become competent teachers who can instruct others in the importance of foundational literacy skills.

Teacher Education Program

All students intent on teaching must be admitted into the Teacher Education Program. To do so, students must fulfill the following requirements:

- Complete ENG 102, SPCH 100, TE 100 and TE 204 with a “C” or better
- Establish and maintain 2.75 GPA or higher
- Complete basic skills test required by the state Department of Education
- Satisfactorily complete the Service Learning Project
- Obtain approval by the department offering the proposed endorsement
- Declare a teaching program at the Academic and Career Services office
- Provide evidence of the absence of any criminal misdemeanor or felony
- Provide evidence of sufficient emotional and mental capacity

Sigma Tau Delta organization

Students have the opportunity to belong to Sigma Tau Delta, a national English honorary society. Students in Sigma Tau Delta plan various activities as well as present papers at the national convention. Students are also able to edit and feature their own creative writing in The Carillon. Every year, Sigma Tau Delta students are able to host the Poetry Slam that often has flash fiction, poetry contests, and even guest appearances by faculty members.
English Department Minors

English
Students wanting to minor in English can still reap the benefits of learning how to write, read, and criticize literary works. These students take a smaller number of classes, but can still develop the traits and skills necessary to expand their English literary expertise.

Popular Culture
Students will examine literature and media in the popular culture of today and compare and contrast it with historic accounts. Students will be able to determine the links between different time periods including popular literature, movies, and music.

English (Elementary Education)
With this minor, students are able to learn about academic writing, reading, and children’s literature and apply their knowledge in their elementary education classroom.

Alumni profile

"I knew I wanted to become a secondary level English teacher from the time I was in high school. After a UNK visit during my senior year of high school and a visit with Dr. Kruse in the English department, I knew I wanted to major in English Education," said Shannon Hempstead, a 2015 UNK graduate from Columbus, Nebraska.

Hempstead is now an English teacher and the Newspaper advisor at Columbus High School. Hempstead works with students to develop, organize and publish the school newspaper. She teaches students how to use proper grammar, revision and editing skills in their writing. She also teaches how to constructively analyze important literary works. She constantly relates her daily work back to her college connections and experiences. "I loved my professors and the personal relationships I formed with many of them. When I got my first teaching job, my professors were some of the first people I contacted because they were so encouraging and helped me achieve my goal of becoming a high school English teacher. They’re like another family to me."

Did you know?

In Nebraska, 95.11% of teachers are endorsed in the subject they teach

Nebraska students consistently score higher than the national average on major nation-wide performance tests

For more information, contact:
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